REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants received the Office Action dated August 26 2005 in which the Examiner noted a deficiency with the application data sheet (ADS) and rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 5,107,457 ("Hayes"). With this Response, Applicants amend claims 1 and 11. Based on the amendments and arguments contained herein, Applicants believes this case to be allowable.

Regarding the ADS, the Examiner alleged that Applicants failed to acknowledge the filing of the foreign-related application. Applicants respectfully submit that the ADS submitted with the filing of the present application did contain a priority claim to the foreign application. Attached is a copy of the PAIR status information and ADS printed directly from the PTO website establishing that (a) the ADS was indeed filed and (b) page 3 of the ADS did indeed contain a reference to the foreign application.

Regarding the art rejections, Applicants amend claim 1 to require that "when data is pushed on to, or popped from, the micro-stack, the stack pointer is adjusted to indicate a new top of the main stack even though data associated with the new top of the main stack resides in the micro-stack and has not been copied to the top of the main stack." That is, although the contents of the micro-stack may change, corresponding data changes may not be made to the main stack, but the main stack's top of stack pointer is adjusted nonetheless.

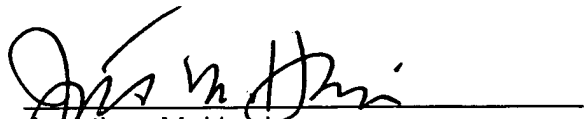
Hayes does not teach this limitation. The Examiner relied on Figures 1 and 2 of Hayes which shows on-chip registers 10 used as an internal stack with external memory 12 providing overflow storage for the on-chip stack. The Examiner stated that reference numeral "12" in Figure 1 is the claimed "stack pointer" (which, per claim 1, "indicates the top of the main stack"). However, column 3, line 26, of Hayes clearly explains that "12" is the external memory, and thus 12 is not a pointer of any kind, much less a main stack pointer. Even if Hayes has a stack pointer as claimed, such a stack pointer would not be adjusted as required by claim 1 which requires adjustments to the main stack pointer when data is pushed on to, or popped from, the micro-stack even though data associated

with the new top of the main stack has not been copied to the top of the main stack. To the extent Hayes has a main stack pointer, that pointer would only be adjusted when overflow data from the internal stack 10 is moved to the external memory 12. Thus, In Hayes no stack pointer adjustments as claimed are taught or even suggested. At least for these reasons, claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable over the cited art.

Applicants amend claim 11 to require "adjusting the stack pointer to the top of the main stack when contents of the micro-stack change even though the same micro-stack content changes are not performed in the main stack." As explained above, Hayes has no teaching or suggestion of adjusting a top of pointer to the top of a main stack when changes, that were made to the micro-stack, are not performed in the main stack. At least for these reasons, claim 11 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable over the cited art.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Applicants petition for a two-month extension of time and authorize the Examiner to charge Texas Instruments Inc.'s Deposit Account No. 20-0668 accordingly. In the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper and prevent this case from being abandoned, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Texas Instruments Inc.'s Deposit Account No. 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,



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